

TASCHENBERGER GRIST MILL

AL-III-B-028

.7 mile east of Spring Gap on Route 51
1856

The Taschenberger Grist Mill is a deteriorated, large two and a half story frame structure containing machinery on four levels (the basement is utilized). It was first opened in 1856 powered by water wheel action and was solely used to grind feed for livestock. William Taschenberger operated the mill from the late 1890's until 1947, ascending from the original water wheel to the ultimate oil burning engine. Operations on site included the grinding of wheat into fine flour and the production of corn meal, buckwheat, and cream of wheat. A sawmill was located in the rear of the structure. Spring Gap Mills, which is the official title of the business, was probably the most prosperous grain mill to ever operate in Allegany County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0101975514
AI-III-B-028

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Taschenberger Grist Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South of Route 51, 17 miles east of Spring Gap

CITY, TOWN

Spring Gap

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY
Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas Kurek

Telephone #: 395-5610

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Box 277

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-III-B-028

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☒ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Taschenberger Grist Mill is located .7 miles east of Spring Gap, Maryland on Route 51.

The mill is a large two and one half story, rectangular structure abutted in the rear by a two story addition. Machinery is found on four different levels within the structure (the basement is utilized.) Walls are of frame construction, have clapboards nailed to a hewn-log frame-work. Windows include double hung wooden sash frames with both one over one and six over six lights. The main entrance is located on the west side and contains the original hardware with plain trim. Original tin materials cover the gabled roof. There are neither chimneys or porches present on the structure, which rests on a low stone foundation.

The mill is presently in deteriorated condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Taschenberger Grist Mill, formally termed Spring Gap Mills, was probably the most prosperous grain mill to ever operate in Allegany County. It presents a fine example of how a business must "keep pace with the times" in order to stay competitive with the market. This is exemplified by the fact that the mill graduated from being water wheel powered, to steam boiler powered, then to the ultimate oil burning engine. The mill not only was involved with several types of grain processing, for there was a sawmill for cutting timber and planing lumber. Differentiation of processes combined with quality work made the mill as prosperous as it was.

In 1856, the first mill was constructed on site.¹ It was a crude mill built next to the stream there and was powered by a water wheel. Production for the next 40 years or so was to simply be that of grinding feed for stock.

William Taschenberger acquired the Grist Mill in the late 1890's. It was at this general time that the roller process for grinding wheat into flour was introduced. Water still remained as the power source for the operation. Mill equipment from the Sprout and Woldro Company (patented December 24, 1889) and from the Aug Wolf and Company (patented March 13, 1884) was installed. The Wolf Company from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania specialized in manufacturing mill equipment for the entire United States.

Storage bins for the wheat were located in the upper level of the structure. From there, the wheat was carried to the planer to be cleaned, then transported by conveyor belt to the scourer. Dirt with the appearance of soot from a stove was washed off the wheat at that point. Two additional grinds were necessary after the initial coarse grinding. The wheat could then be "bolted out" into fine flour and packaged in 25 pound sacks.

The Taschenbergers (William was assisted by his son, Walter) would raise up to 1000 barrels of corn annually on the fertile lands of the Potomac Flood Plain near Spring Gap. With this they ground cornmeal and sold it. Buckwheat was also produced. Cream of wheat "so sweet that it could be eaten straight out of the box" was made only for the Taschenberger family usage.

People would travel to the mill from distances up to 100 miles around Tri-State area (Maryland, Pennsylvania, and W. Virginia). Two steam boilers were added to replace the water wheel to raise efficiency. One of them ran the sawmill on the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

10/11/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TASCHENBERGER GRIST MILL
Statement of Significance Continued

same complex. Wood cut and fashioned from that mill was used to build the nearby Taschenberger Frame House as well as all the buildings comprising the Consolidated Orchard Company. Efficiency was boosted further with the addition of the 21 horsepower oil powered engine, which was made at the Auto Engine Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Spring Gap Mills remained operational until 1947. It will be remembered as one of the first progressive businesses to serve the people of Allegany County. Although the four story edifice now lies in deteriorated condition, it presents an excellent image of the type of structure that warrants restoration.²

1 Interview with Thomas Kurek, September 21, 1976

2 Interview with Walter Taschenberger, November 9, 1976

TITLE SEARCH

Taschenberger Grist Mill
AL-III-B-028

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 473, Folio 310
grantee: Thomas Kurek
grantor: Erma D. Buckley
July 24, 1974
2 acres

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 471, Folio 384
grantee: Erma D. Buckley
grantor: Fred Eugene Cadd, et. ux
June 5, 1974

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 470, Folio 513
grantee: Fred Eugene Cadd
grantor: Tashchenberger's, Inc.
May 2, 1974
46 acres

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 305, Folio 57
grantee: Taschenberger's, Inc.
grantor: Emma Frances Taschenberger, et. al.
October 2, 1958
Farm United Parcel #1
273 acres
Consideration: \$14,000.00

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 218, Folio 493
grantee: Clara Alma Taschenberger
grantor: Emma Frances Taschenberger
December 27, 1947
(All 4 Parcels)

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 125, Folio 347
grantee: Oscar William T. Taschenberger
grantor: Henry Little, et. al, (Attorney in fact for Catherine Little,
widow of Hiram Little, who died intestate)
September 24, 1918
273 acres

Allegheny County Deed, Liber 59, Folio 618
grantee: Hiram Little, et. al.
grantor: Nimrod H. Little, et. al.
March 31, 1883
273 acres
(Was surveyed for Mary M. Little on December 28, 1874)

✓ INVENTORY NO. AL-III-B-028

DATE: 9/21/76

473/310

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

2 Acres

NAME OF PROPERTY: TASCHENBERGER GRIST MILL

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: SOUTH OF RT. 51, .7 miles east of Spring Gap

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: WEST

NAME OF OWNER: Thomas Kurek 395-5610

ADDRESS: Rt. 4, Box 277, Cumberland

Cumberland MD. 21502

STORIES: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(☒) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

working Basement (4 levels of machinery)

WINGS, ADDITIONS: 2 Story Gabled Rear Addition

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

Log Frame with nailed on clapboards

- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
() BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
() Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTER, OTHERS

PLAIN

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE on west side

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1(☒) 2/2() 6/6(☒) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: WEST

HARDWARE: original(☒) replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, LANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin asphalt original(☒) replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 0 BRICK() STONE() CORBELLED() original() replaced()

LOCATION: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - Nancy Grist Mill Before

Significance -

Date Constructed - 1856

Condition - Deteriorated

018
B-021

AI-III-B-020

AI-III-B-019

AI-III-B-017

AI-III-B-028

AI-III-B-027

AI-III-B-012

AI-III-B-013

AI-III-B-025

AI-III-B-028

Tashcenberger Grist Mill

Rt 51

USGS - Patterson Creek

1:24,000

1949

K F O R T

AL-III-B-028

Taschenberger Mill, site

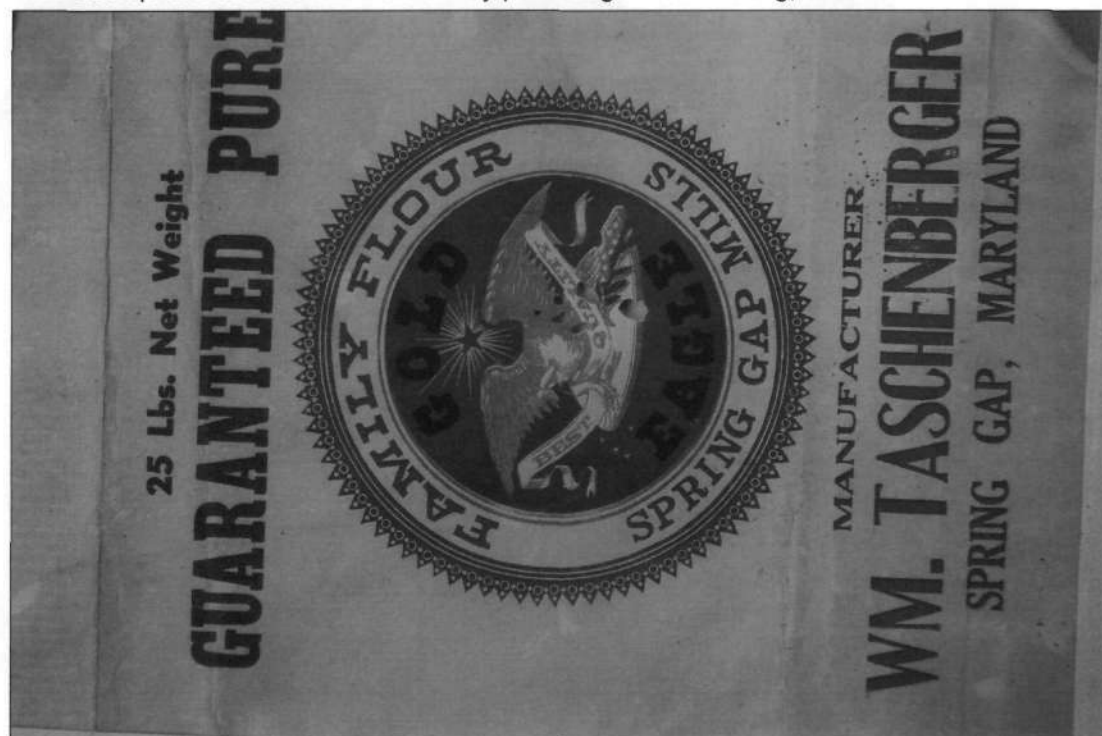
Oldtown Road, SE (MD 51), Spring Gap

Photos by John McGrain, 26 March 1975

Gable end and roof



Flour sack presented to John McGrain by park ranger Ted Thoerig, c. 1975.



AL-III-B-028

Taschenberger Mill, site

Oldtown Road, SE (MD 51), Spring Gap

Photos by John McGrain, 26 March 1975

Mill exterior



AL-III-B-028

Taschenberger Mill, site

Oldtown Road, SE (MD 51), Spring Gap

Photos by John McGrain, 26 March 1975

Interior: Mill chute coming down through second story floor



Mill grinding stones



AL-III-B-028

Taschenberger Mill, site
Oldtown Road, SE (MD 51), Spring Gap
Photos by John McGrain, 26 March 1975
Interior: Otto engine



Grinding stones (more of that photo)



AL-III-B-028

Taschenberger Mill, site

Oldtown Road, SE (MD 51), Spring Gap

Photos by John McGrain, 26 March 1975

Interior: Roller units





TASCHENBERGER GRIST MILL

AL-III-B-028

JUST SOUTH OF ^{RT.} 51, .7 miles east of
Spring Gap.

John Nelson

9/21/76

East



Taschenberger Grist Mill

AL-III-B-028

Just South of Rt. 51, .7 miles
east of Spring Gap

John Nelson

9/20/76

North west